

“There is no richer field of science opened to the exploration of man in search of knowledge than astronomical observation; nor is there ... any duty more impressively incumbent on all human governments than that of furnishing means and facilities and rewards to those who devote the labors of their lives to the indefatigable industry, the unceasing vigilance, and the bright intelligence indispensable to success in these pursuits.”

John Quincy Adams, at the dedication of the Cincinnati
Observatory, 9 November 1843